Expansion of Air Services from Bhopal

†2124. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme has been formulated to increase air services from Bhopal to Chennai, Hyderabad, Bangalore, etc., in view of abundant possibilities to boost tourism industry in Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details of its outline?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVILAVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Indian Airlines currently has no plans to increase air services from Bhopal to Chennai, Hyderabad and Bangalore, In any case airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country based on traffic potential, economic viability and commercial judgement subject to observation of the Route Dispersal Guidelines laid down by the Government.

Replacement of Outdated Technology used for ATC Automation System

2125. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ATC automation system in Delhi and Mumbai is using a 15-year old technology;

(b) if so, whether they are outdated and difficult to maintain;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to replace them with the latest system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir. The ATC automation systems at these airports were commissioned in 1999.

(b) and (c) Though the systems are not outdated, due to rapid development in the field of computer technology, the servers and workstation used in the system are no more under manufacturing and hence maintenance support is difficult to obtain. The systems are presently maintained with the spares available in the stock of Airports Authority of India (AAI).

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.